

AMENDMENTS TO THE DRAWINGS

The attached sheet(s) of drawings includes changes to FIGS. 1A-1C. FIGS. 1A-1C are amended herein to include the designation "Prior art."

Attachment: Replacement sheets

REMARKS

Claims 1-10 are pending. Claims 1-3 and 7 are amended. Claim 10 is new.

Drawing Amendments

FIGS. 1A-1C have been amended to include the designation "Prior Art." No new matter has been added.

Amendments to the Specification

The title has been amended to more precisely describe the subject matter of the invention. Line 30 of page 1 has been amended to correct an erroneous reference number from the drawings. No new matter has been added.

Claim Amendments

Claim 1 has been amended to more precisely claim the invention. In particular, claim 1 now recites "at least one deformable leaktight balloon disposed between said first and second transparent plates, said at least one deformable leaktight balloon being in contact with both transparent plates around at least a portion of said panel outside the periphery of said panel, whereby no part of said at least one deformable leaktight balloon is interposed between main faces of said panel and said first and second transparent plates." Support for this amended language can be found in the specification at page 7, line 26 through page 8, line 14, and in FIGS. 2A-2B, for example. Claim 1 has been further amended to improve readability and clarity.

Claims 2-3 and 7 have been amended to improve readability and clarity.

New claim 10 includes the subject matter of original claims 1, 3 and 4, rewritten to improve clarity and readability.

No new matter has been added.

Objection to the Drawings

Applicant respectfully requests reconsideration and withdrawal of the objection to the drawings due to FIGS. 1A-1C lacking a designation of ‘Prior Art.’ As discussed above, FIGS. 1A-1C have been amended to include the label “Prior Art.”

Objection to the Specification

Applicant respectfully requests reconsideration and withdrawal of the objection to the title for not being sufficiently descriptive. Applicant has amended the title as suggested by the Examiner.

Applicant respectfully requests reconsideration and withdrawal of the objection to the specification for erroneously reciting reference numeral 22 instead of reference numeral 20 in line 30 of page 1. Applicant has amended the specification as required by the Examiner.

Claim Rejections - 35 U.S.C. §102

Applicant respectfully requests reconsideration and withdrawal of the rejection of claims 1-3, 5-7 and 9 under 35 U.S.C. §102(b) as being anticipated by Sangu (GB 2,281,980).

In order for anticipation to exist, a reference must teach each and every element of a claimed invention. “The identical invention must be shown in as complete detail as is contained in the... claim”. *Richardson v. Suzuki Motor Co.*, 868 F.2d 1226, 1236, 9 USPQ2d 1913, 1920 (Fed. Cir. 1989). As mentioned above, claim 1 now recites that “at least one deformable leaktight balloon disposed between said first and second transparent plates, said at least one deformable leaktight balloon being in contact with both transparent plates around at least a portion of said panel outside the periphery of said panel, whereby no part of said at least one deformable leaktight balloon is interposed between main faces of said panel and said first and second transparent plates.” As a result of the deformable leaktight balloon being disposed around the panel such that the balloon is in contact with both transparent plates and the outside periphery of the panel, as claimed, no portion of the balloon is interposed between the panel and

the glasses. As a consequence, when vacuum is introduced to the volume between the two transparent plates, the inner face of the two transparent plates can be applied against the faces of the panel.

In Sangu, a pressurizing film 4a, 4b is firmly fixed to the periphery of the glasses 2a, 2b, and pressurized air can be injected into the closed volume defined by the glasses 2a, 2b and the corresponding pressurizing film 4a, 4b. The Examiner appears to consider the film 4a, 4b combined with the glass 2a, 2b to correspond to the deformable leaktight balloon recited in claim 1. It is clear that the film 4a, 4b is necessarily interposed between the glass 2a, 2b and the printed circuit board P to be exposed to the light through the glass. Thus, when vacuum is introduced in the volume S, the glasses 2a, 2b are not applied against the two faces of the printed circuit board P due to the inflated films 4a, 4b. This is without effect because the film masks F are applied directly against the faces of the printed circuit board P.

Based on the above discussion, Sangu does not teach or suggest “at least one deformable leaktight balloon disposed between said first and second transparent plates, said at least one deformable leaktight balloon being in contact with both transparent plates around at least a portion of said panel outside the periphery of said panel, whereby no part of said at least one deformable leaktight balloon is interposed between main faces of said panel and said first and second transparent plates.” Therefore, claim 1 is not anticipated by Sangu. Claims 2-3, 7 and 9 are not anticipated because they depend from claim 1.

Allowable Subject Matter

Applicant thanks the Examiner for the indication of allowable subject matter in claims 4 and 8. Claims 4 and 8 are believed to be allowable because they depend from amended claim 1. New independent claim 10 includes the subject matter of claim 4 as previously presented, and is therefore believed to be allowable.

Conclusion

In view of the above amendment, applicant believes the pending application is in condition for allowance.

Applicant believes no fee is due with this response. However, if a fee is due, please charge our Deposit Account No. 22-0185, under Order No. 22193-00010-US1 from which the undersigned is authorized to draw.

Dated: February 5, 2007

Respectfully submitted,

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Attachments